

# Examining the Role of Natural Resources in Conflicts on Three Continents



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US Army Corps of Engineers  
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Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE <b>MAY 2011</b>		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED <b>00-00-2011 to 00-00-2011</b>	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE <b>Examining the Role of Natural Resources in Conflicts on Three Continents</b>				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) <b>Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, PO Box 9005, Champaign, IL, 61826-9005</b>				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT <b>Approved for public release; distribution unlimited</b>					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES <b>Presented at the NDIA Environment, Energy Security &amp; Sustainability (E2S2) Symposium &amp; Exhibition held 9-12 May 2011 in New Orleans, LA.</b>					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT <b>Same as Report (SAR)</b>	18. NUMBER OF PAGES <b>20</b>	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT <b>unclassified</b>	b. ABSTRACT <b>unclassified</b>	c. THIS PAGE <b>unclassified</b>			

# Project Team

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# Security and Natural Resources

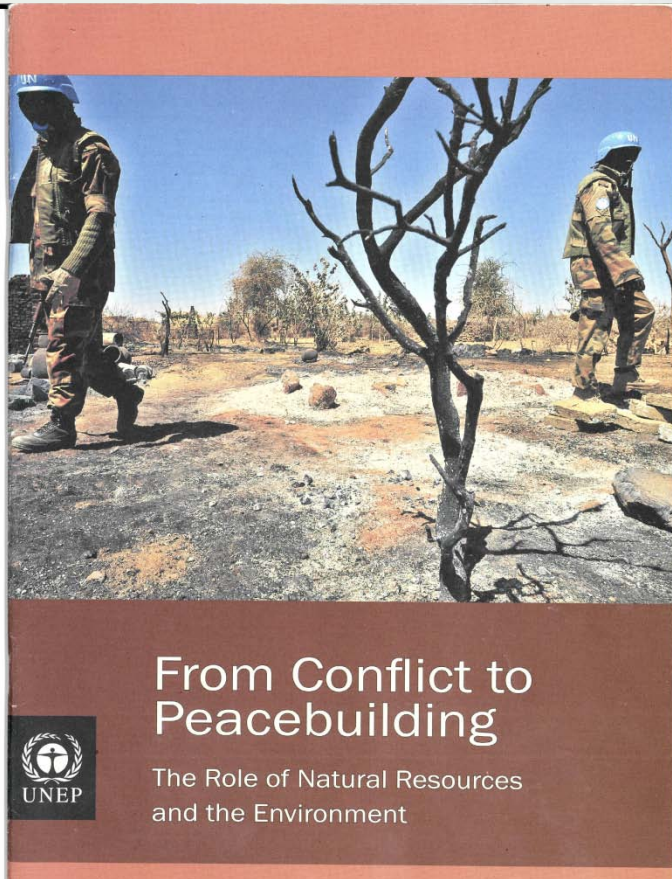
- Looking back over the past sixty years, at least forty percent of all intrastate conflicts can be associated with natural resources (UNEP, 2009, page 8)
- In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the security of nations will depend increasingly on the security of natural resources or “natural security.” The global economy, developing countries and local economies throughout the world all rely on the availability of potable water, arable land, fish stocks, biodiversity, energy, minerals and other renewable and nonrenewable resources to meet the rising expectations of a growing world population. (Center for New American Security, 2010, page 5)



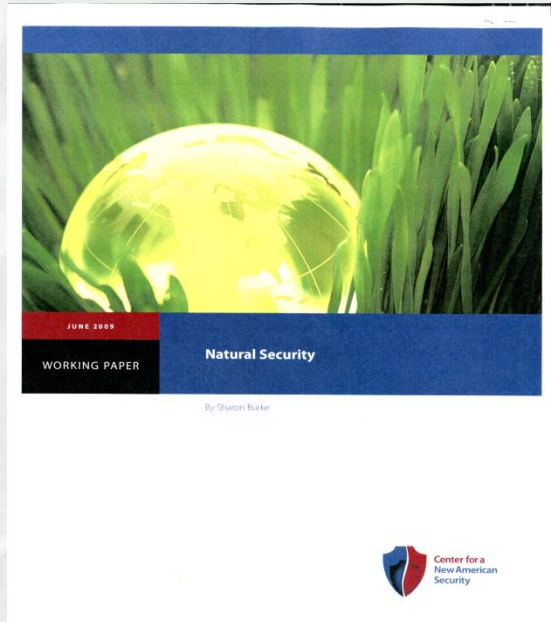


## Project Context

# Natural Resources and Security and Stability



- ***Addressing the Inter-linkages between Natural Resources Management and Conflict in the European Commission's External Relations, Adelphi Research 2007***
- ***Strengthening Post-Conflict Peacebuilding through Natural Resource Management, ELI, Today, UNEP (6 volumes in press)***



Natural Security, The Center for New American Security, Sharon Burke, June 2009

From Conflict to Peacebuilding, the Role of Natural Resources and the Environment, United Nations Environmental Program, February 2009



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# Strengthening Post-Conflict Peacebuilding Through Natural Resource Management

**The Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the University of Tokyo**

- More than 220 practitioners, researchers, and decision makers from 40 countries are developing 150 case studies and thematic analyses examining specific experiences and identifying lessons. In 2011, Earthscan will publish these case studies and analyses in a series of six edited books addressing: 1) High-Value Natural Resources; 2) Land; 3) Water; 4) Livelihoods; 5) Assessment and Restoration; and 6) Governance and Institutions. The case studies and analyses will total approximately 3,000 pages, representing a diversity of resources, countries, post-conflict contexts, peacebuilding objectives, and outcomes.
- Collects and shares lessons learned in managing natural resources in post-conflict countries to support the transition to peace;
- Raises awareness and capacity of practitioners, leaders, and researchers regarding how natural resources can be managed to support the transition to peace; and
- Assists post-conflict societies in transitioning to peace through improved natural resource laws, policies, and management.
- An overarching synthesis volume will highlight the lessons learned from the six edited volumes and place them in the context of the broader literature and experience. Approximately 300 pages, the synthesis volume is structured around peacebuilding activities such as security, livelihoods and economic recovery, basic services, and governance and rule of law. Cambridge University Press will publish the synthesis volume in 2011.

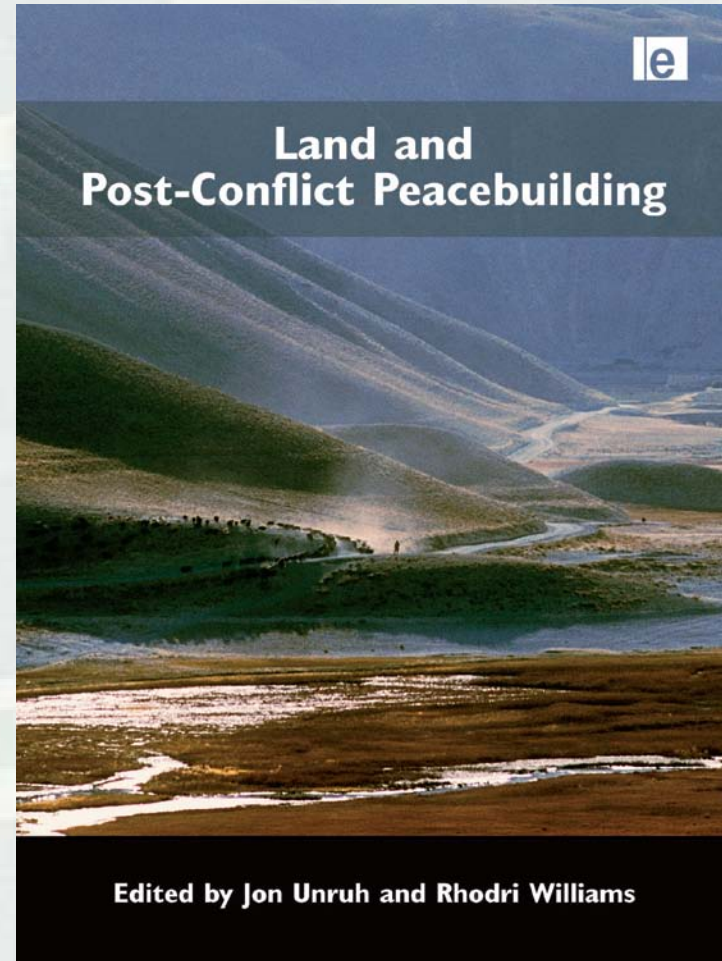
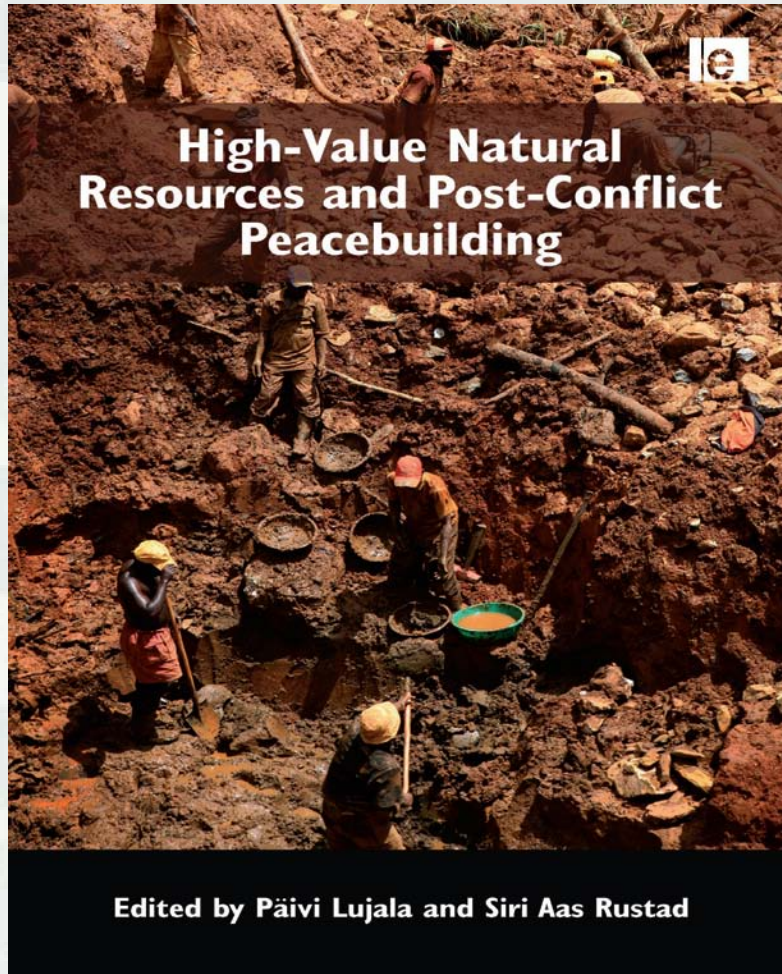
For more information: [http://www.eli.org/Program\\_Areas/PCNRM/index.cfm](http://www.eli.org/Program_Areas/PCNRM/index.cfm) or [nichols@eli.org](mailto:nichols@eli.org)





**Forthcoming publication:**  
**Strengthening Post-Conflict Peacebuilding Through Natural Resource Management**

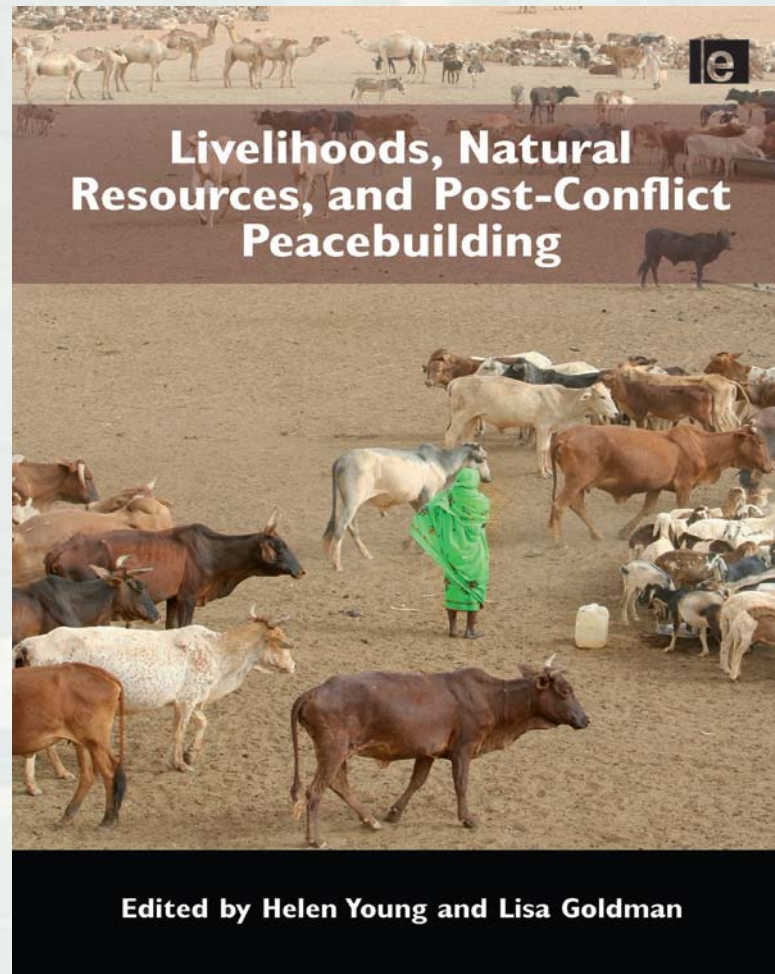
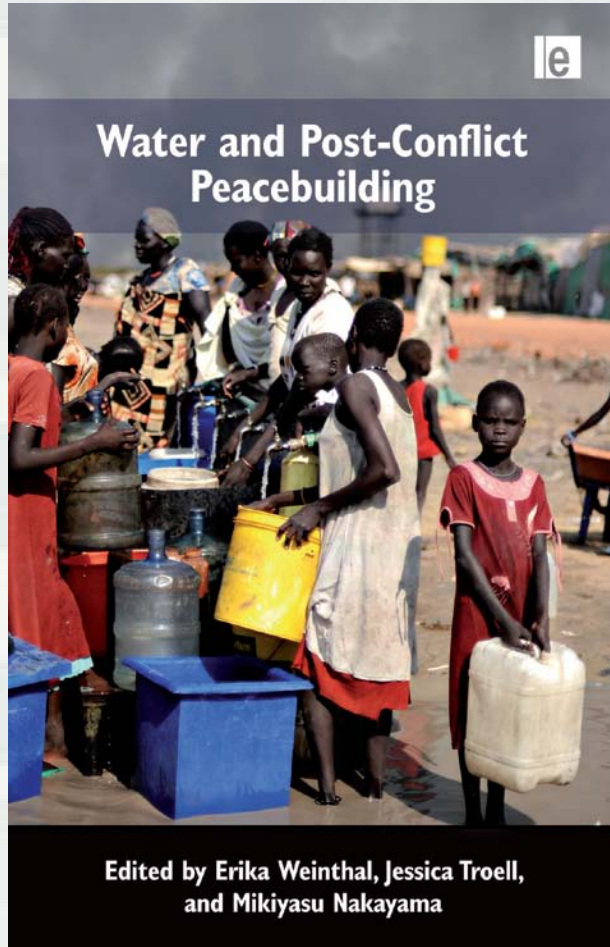
**The Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the University of Tokyo**



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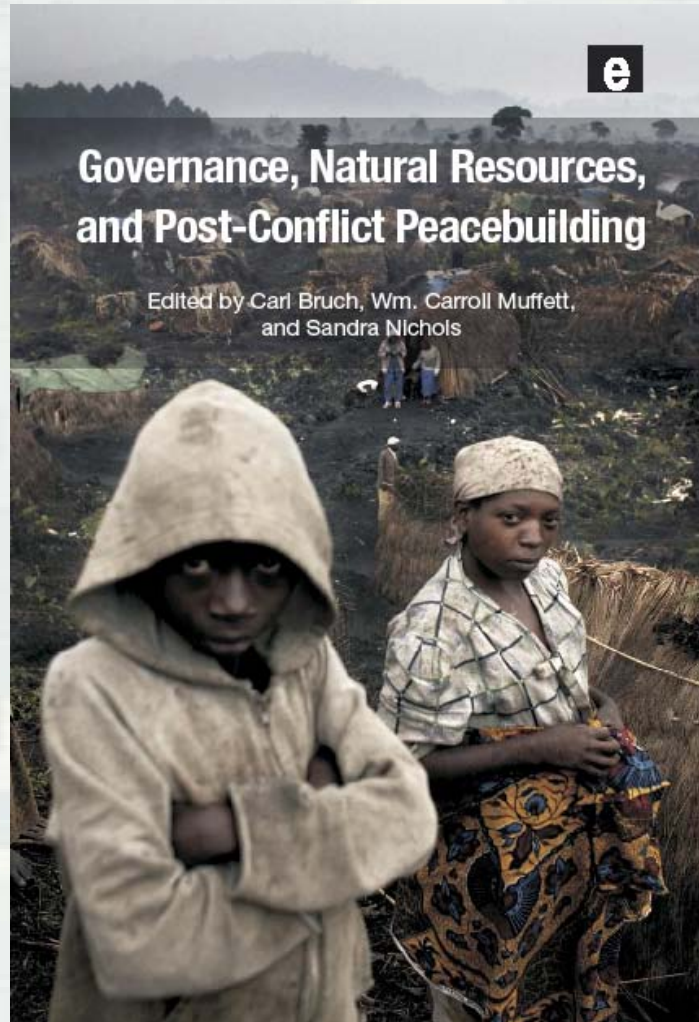
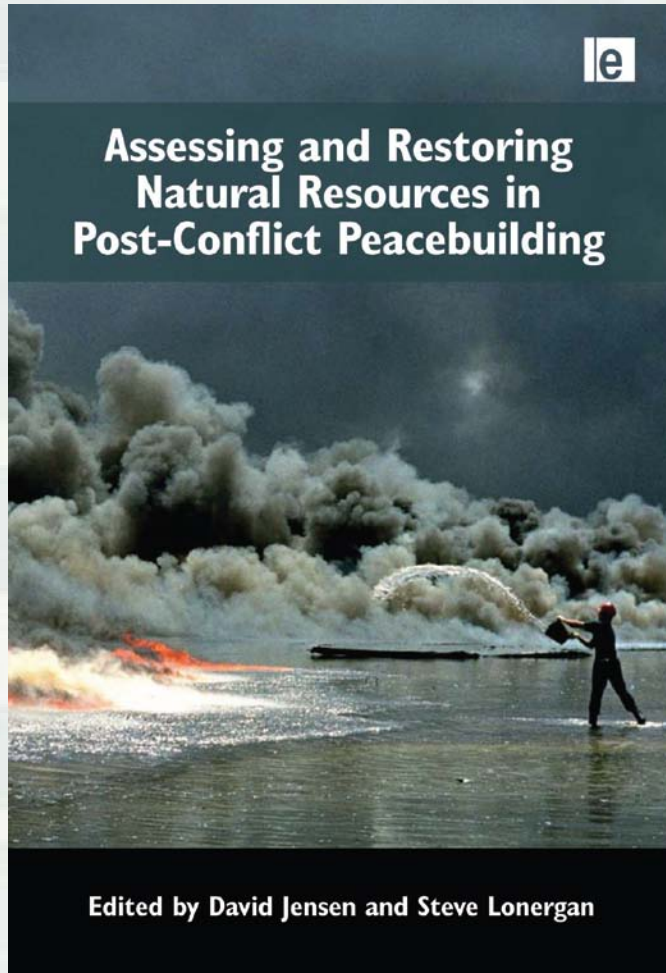
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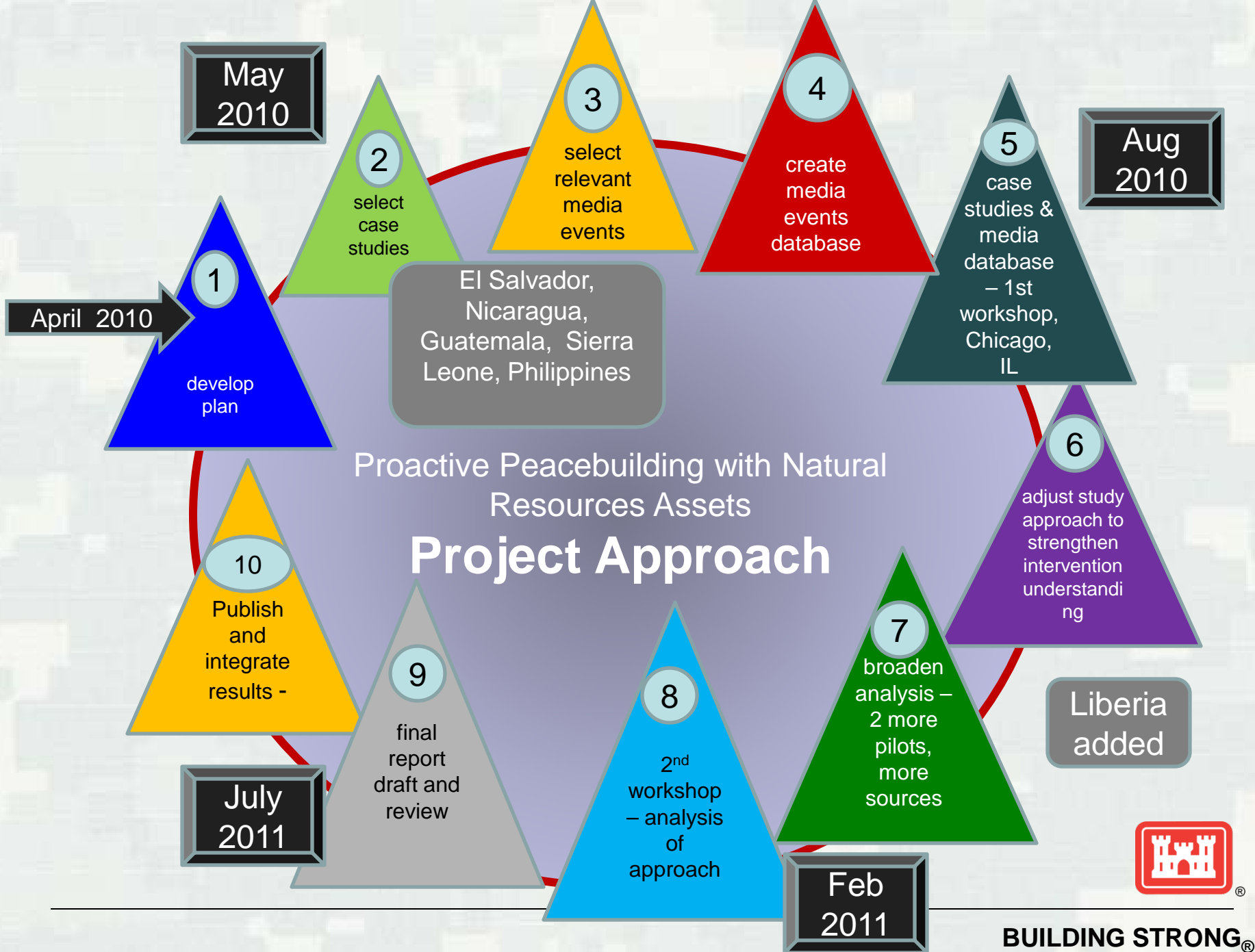
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# Study Locations and Characteristics

Country Region	Time	Natural Resources	Type of Conflicts	# Events	Reference Study Articles
Sierra Leone	1979-2008	Minerals (diamonds)	Control of natural resources	1077	Kazumi Kawamoto
El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala	1979-2008	Agriculture	Land Ownership, Jobs, Wealth Distribution	1427	Alexandre Corriveau-Bourque
Philippines	1979-2008	Minerals and Agriculture	Control of natural resources, wealth distribution, socio-cultural conflict	4735	Yuri Oki
Liberia	1979-2008	Forestry	Access to resources, resource use and wealth distribution	1102	Stephanie L. Altman, Esq., Sandra S. Nichols, Esq., John Woods

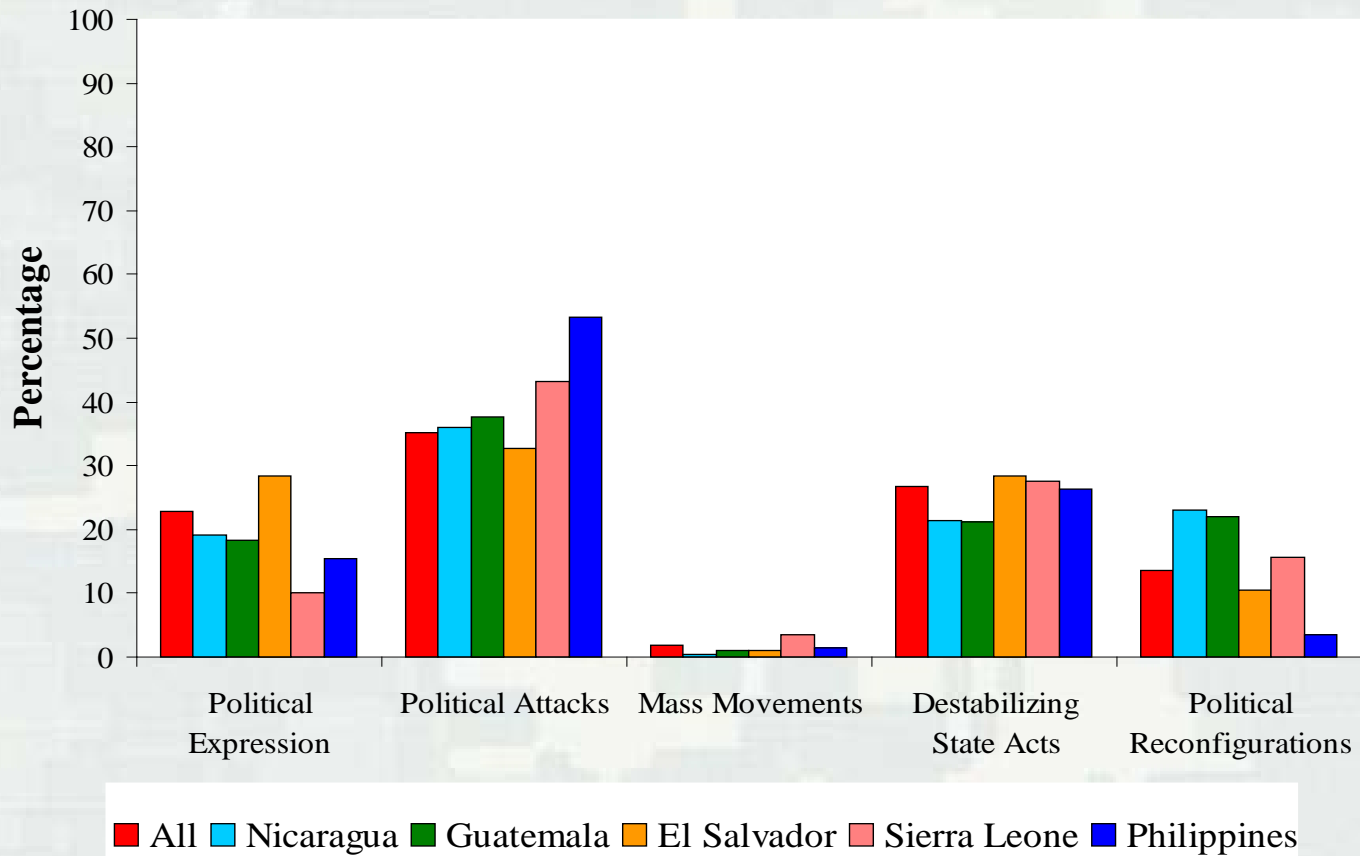
***Strengthening Post-Conflict Peacebuilding through Natural Resource Management***, ELI, Todai, UNEP (in press)



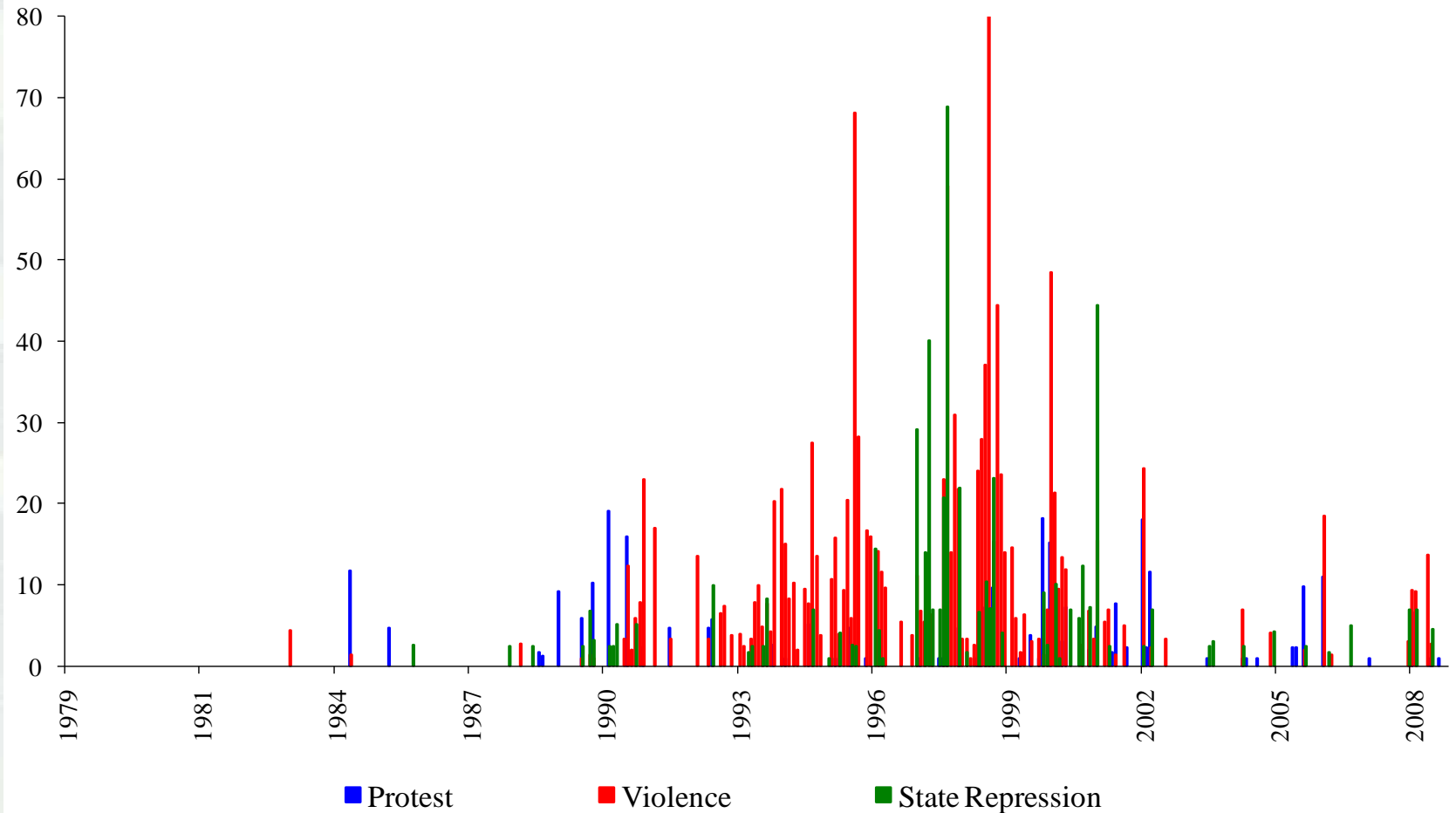




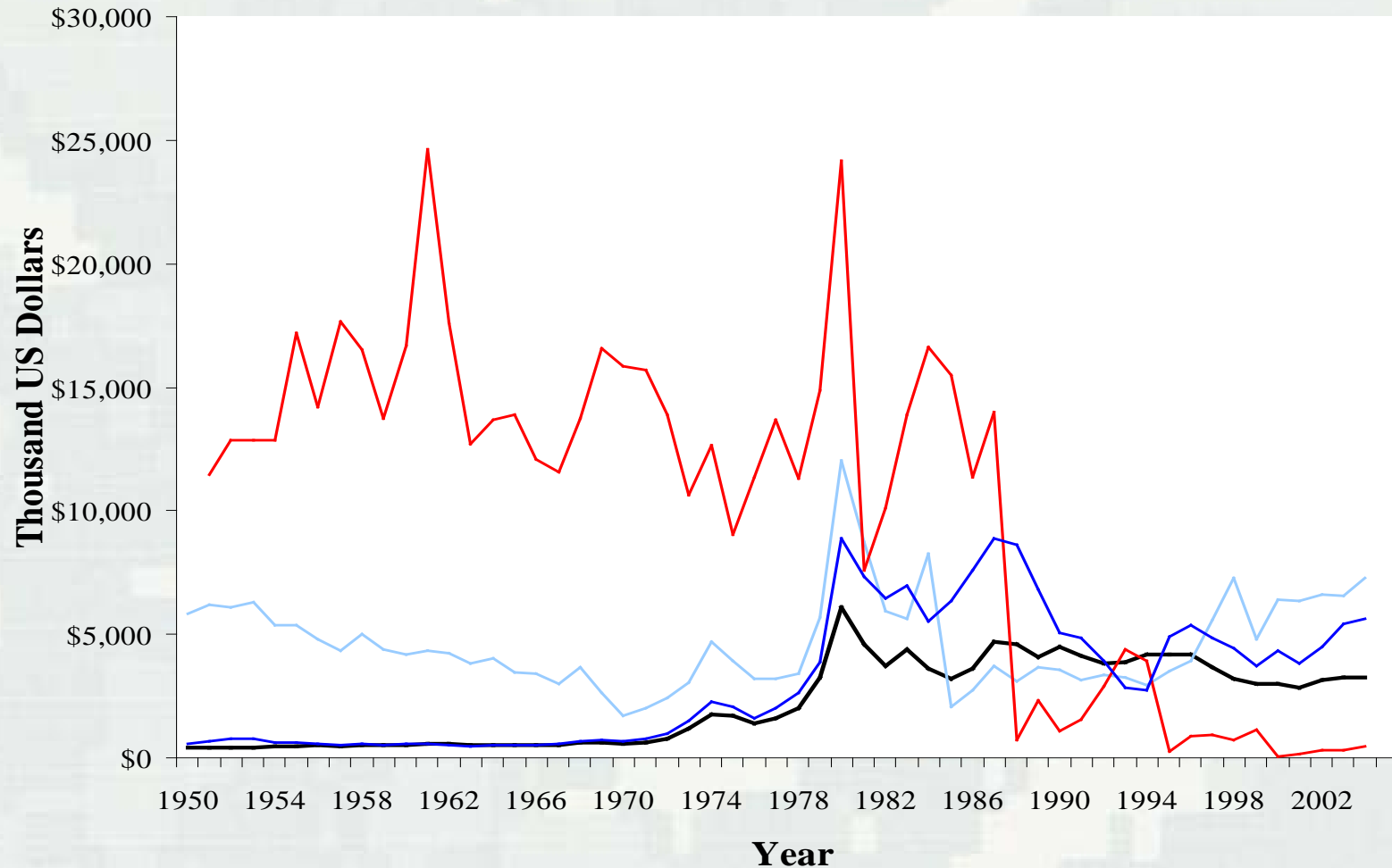
# Type of Event



# Instability Composites, Sierra Leone



# Natural Resources Value, Per Capita



— Global Average  
— El Salvador

— Nicaragua  
— Sierra Leone

— Guatemala  
— Philippines

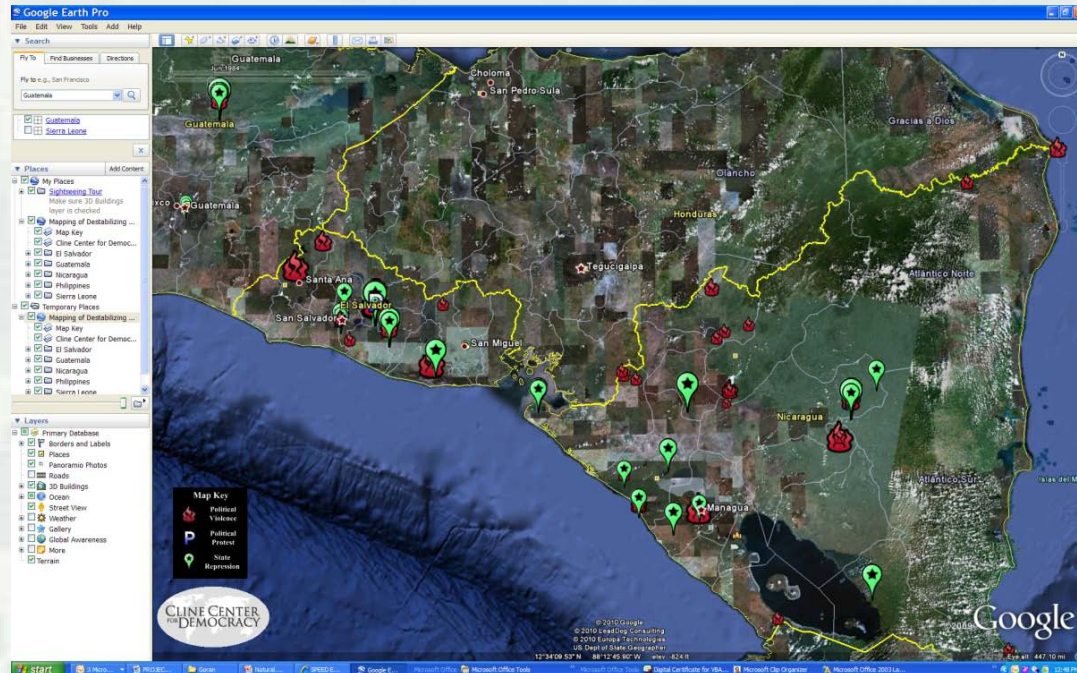


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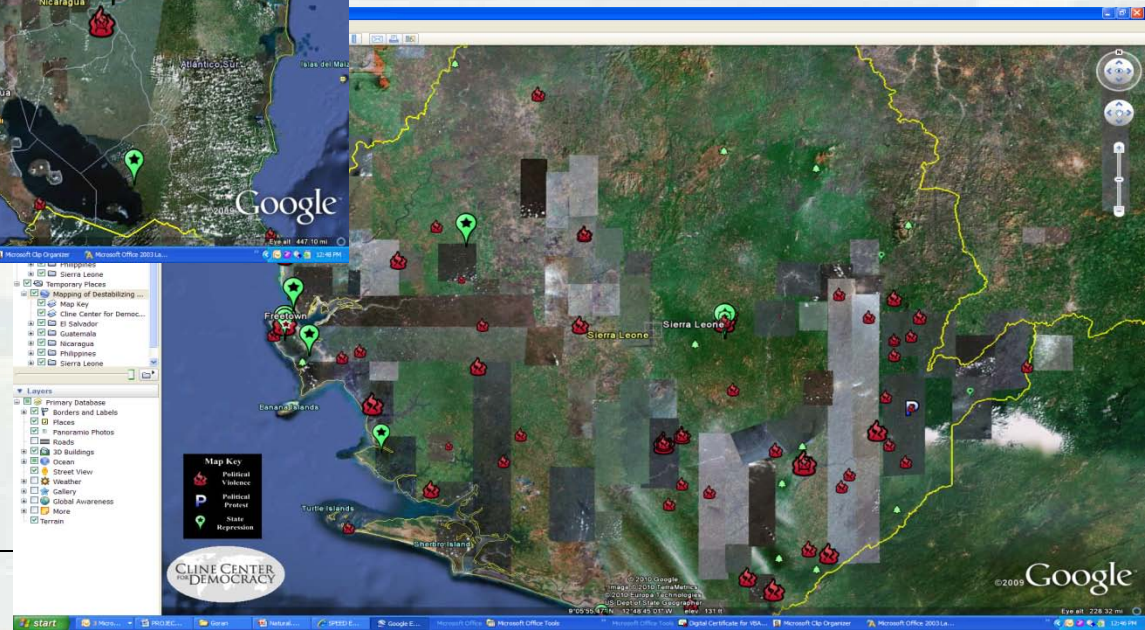


# Geospatial View - Civil Unrest Events

## Central American Pilot Sites



<<http://www.clinecenter.illinois.edu/research/speed-data.html>><http://www.clinecenter.illinois.edu/research/speed-data.html>



# Natural Resources Stakeholders

Manage &  
Harvest for  
Local  
Population Use

Manage & Harvest for  
Commerce (raw  
materials & processed  
products)

Conserve for  
Ecosystem  
Protection, Long  
Term Use &  
Recreation

## Resolution of Crises & Conflicts Related to Natural Resources

- Address interests & dependencies of all stakeholders on natural resource assets (balance value obtained from the resource)
- Work within the ability of resource to meet the needs of the population (avoid resource depletion and ecosystem degradation)
- Nurture pathways (such as post harvest processing) to increase local value obtained from resource use

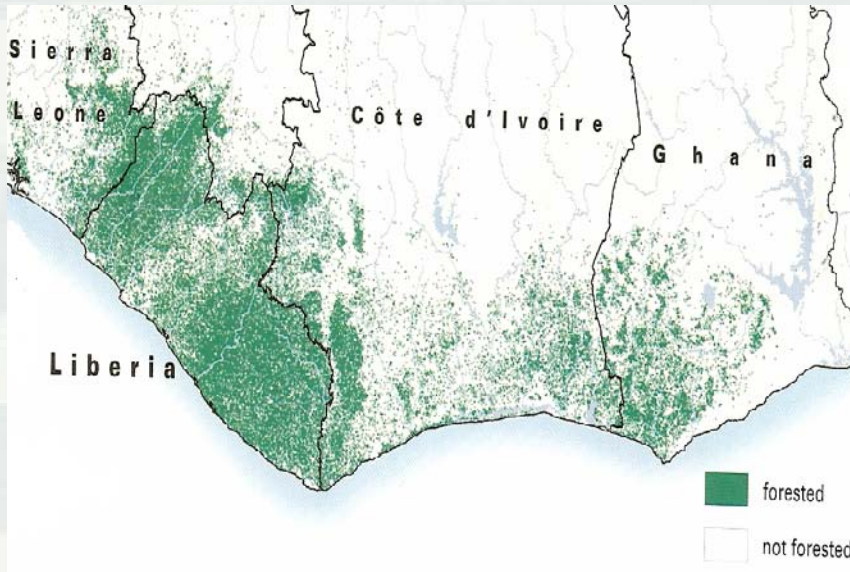
**Treaty,  
Legislation,  
Agreement**



## Liberia

### Pilot Location

Leveraging High-Value Natural Resources to Restore the Rule of Law:  
The Liberia Forestry Initiative's Role in Liberia's Transition to Stability



33.3% (1.5 million ha) reserved for  
conservation  
51.2% (2.3 million ha) reserved for  
commercial  
15.5% (.7 million ha) reserved for  
community benefit

Forthcoming ELI Publication authors: Stephanie L. Altman, Esq., Sandra S. Nichols, Esq., and the  
Honorable John Woods, Former Managing Director of the Liberian Forest Development Authority

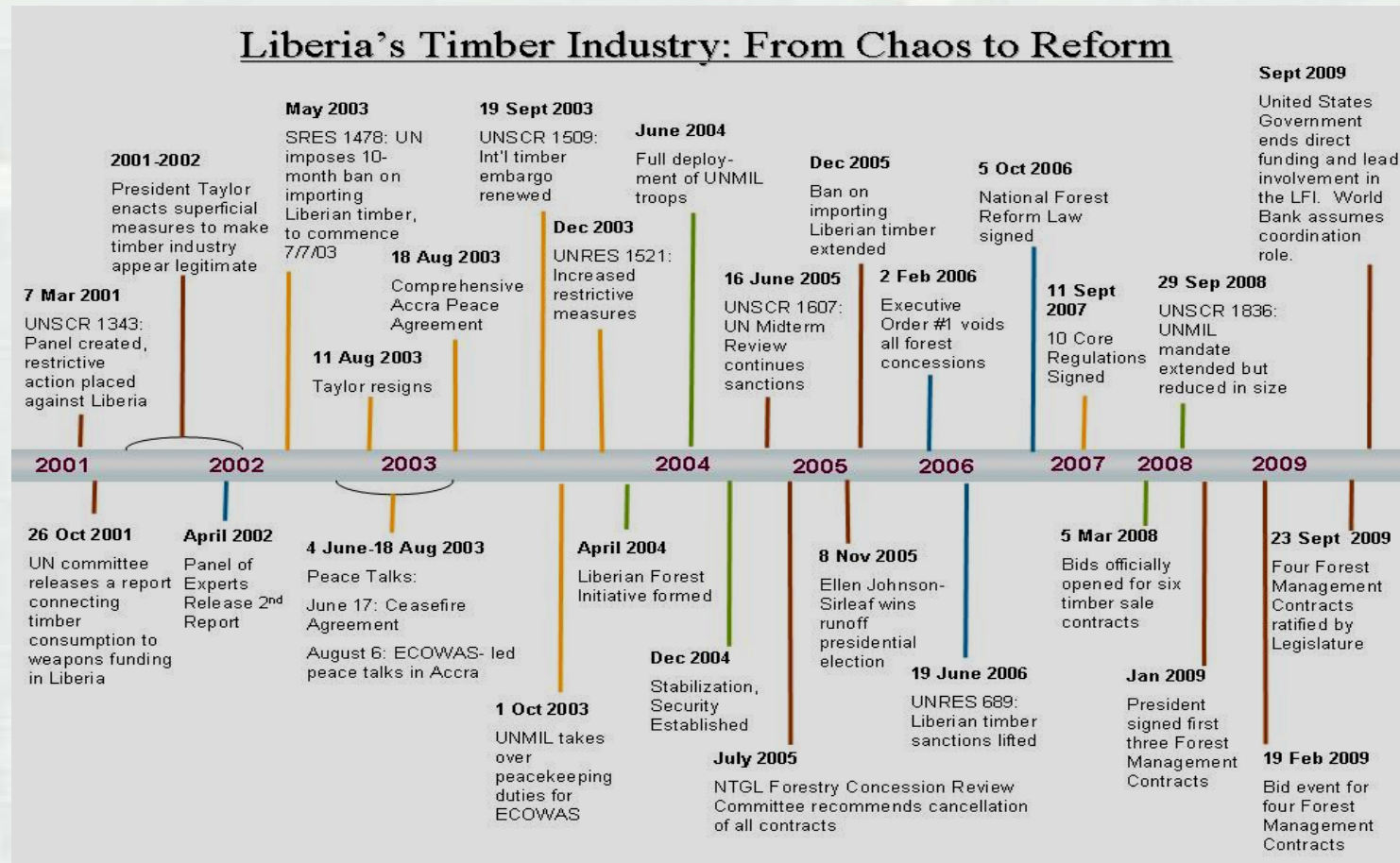


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## Liberia Pilot Location

### Leveraging High-Value Natural Resources to Restore the Rule of Law: The Liberia Forestry Initiative's Role in Liberia's Transition to Stability



# Project Conclusions

- Understanding the value and effectiveness of actions (interventions) to avert or respond to natural resources crises/conflicts is potentially important for enhancing strategies for advancing global stability. In conflicts rooted in natural resource issue, the interests of multiple stakeholders need to be addressed as well as the underlying constraints of the natural resources.
- Post event case studies have traditionally been a way to understanding conflicts – but these are limited, costly and done after the fact. Moreover, they often lack good data on conflict levels. Including local and accurate media coverage during post (or pre) conflict analysis will help improve the capacity of these analyses to evaluate the impact of strategies to reduce conflict.
- Both historic and current media analysis can enhance our understanding events. Current media analysis can also help shape and monitor strategies to promote peace building through outreach, peace keeping, and agreement support before, during and after crises and conflicts.



# Questions?

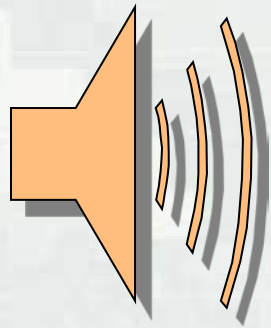


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# Process for Media Analysis



BBC  
Summary World  
Broadcasts  
(translated  
transcribed and  
digitized)



Select nations and  
timeframe for  
study (aligned with  
ELI case studies)

#1077 Sierra  
Leone  
#1102  
Liberia

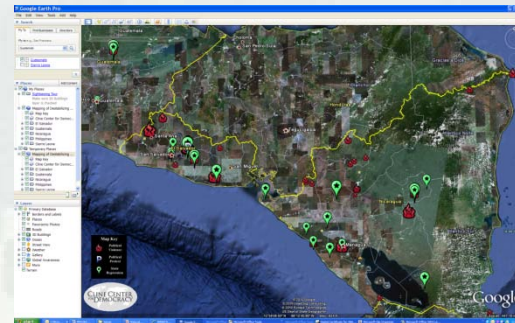


Trained operators  
extract information on  
conflict “events”; enter  
into SPEED database

SPEED  
Database



Analyze data  
in SPEED  
database



Comparison of SPEED results  
with other data and sources

